

year, on September 30, and should be reauthorized so that it can continue to serve as a vitally important incentive to States for finalizing adoptions for children in foster care, with an emphasis on finding adoptive homes for special needs children and foster children over age 9. I am proud of Ohio's success in finalizing more than 10,400 adoptions of children from foster care between 2000 and 2006, earning \$5.4 million in Federal adoption incentive payments, which are invested back into the child welfare program.

We need to help more foster children in Ohio and across the Nation join loving, permanent adoptive families. The Adoption Incentive Program is effective in encouraging more adoptions from foster care, and I look forward to seeing that it is reauthorized this year.

DECLARATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, consistent with Republican earmark standards, the following are detailed finance plans for each of my requested projects in the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009, H.R. 5658.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide \$10,590,000 to make Industrial Access Improvements at Main Gate 15 at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Mandatory vehicle access control at military installations is a Department of Defense (DoD) requirement per DoD Directives 5200.8 and 5200.8R. Based on a Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment conducted in October 2006, the entrance and guardhouse configuration at Gate 15 are inadequate for both industrial access and from a security/safety standpoint and require upgrading. This project provides for industrial access improvements of Gate 15 including the truck and private automobile inspection area, Pass Office Renovations and counter terrorism measures at Gate 15.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center Address of Requesting Entity: Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center, 1030 University Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23435, USA.

Description of Request: Provide \$800,000 for research and development effort that will bring together the Modeling and Simulation community to define, implement, and utilize a set of standards that will guide the development of M&S capability for the foreseeable future. Standards will provide a more cost effective way to ensure simulation compatibility and reuse among the Services and the many types of simulations being developed to address

their problems. This action provides funding for the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center at Old Dominion University to develop a set of modeling and simulation standards that will guide all aspects of DoD modeling and simulation design and development.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Department of the Navy.

Address of Requesting Entity: Various.

Description of Request: To increase the President's Budget by \$722,000,000 for Virginia Class Submarine Advance Procurement/Advanced Construction. This funding will provide advanced procurement for the Block III procurement of the Virginia Class Submarine fleet. The funding can be used to accelerate the delivery at a rate of 2 per year beginning in FY10 rather than FY11.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Department of the Navy.

Address of Requesting Entity: Various.

Description of Request: To increase the President's Budget by \$10,000,000 for Advanced Submarine System Development (ULMS). The requested funding addition will allow the Navy to proceed with Sea Based Strategic Deterrent (SBSD) development in a timely fashion. This submarine class will serve as the replacement for the OHIO submarine class.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Department of the Navy.

Address of Requesting Entity: Various.

Description of Request: To increase the President's Budget for the LPD by \$1,800,000,000. In 2007 Congressional testimony, USMC leaders testified that a force structure less than 10 LPD class ships would put the USMC at significant risk in meeting commitments for global presence and to the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The \$1.8 billion in FY 2009 funding is for LPD 26 as requested on the Navy's and marine Corps' FY 2009 Unfunded Priority Lists.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA JAGUARS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate The University of Houston—Victoria (UHV) Jaguars softball team on an amazing inaugural season. The Jaguars completed the season with a 32–18 record and finished fourth in Region VI of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, missing the national tournament by one slot.

The Jaguars faced a strong slate of contenders in the regular season, including 14 nationally recognized opponents, nine of which fell to the Jaguars. The team also defeated NCAA teams Houston Baptist University and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

"You've got to beat the best to be the best," head coach Keri Lambeth always tells her players, and the Jaguars showed they are more than capable of competing with the best. On March 17, the softball team ranked No. 4 in 18-team Region VI in the first season poll based on play, marking the first rating of a UHV sporting team. On March 19, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) ranked the softball team No. 15 in the Nation. The team ended the season in the same impressive position.

The players didn't just work hard on the field. Coach Lambeth demanded academic and civic excellence. The players were required to attend a number of study hall hours every week based on their grade-point averages. A perfect 4.0 required 10 hours, while anything less required increasingly more. The players also met with Coach Lambeth each week to discuss how their classes were going and what kind of grades they were earning. As a result, a third of the team is expected to hold a 4.0 GPA this semester, and most of the team members are expected to appear on the UHV Dean's List for the spring semester.

As Coach Lambeth always tells her players, "We're not just here to play sports. We are here for an education first and foremost."

As part of their civic activities, the players participated in a mentoring program in which they tutored at-risk elementary school students in reading, and middle and high school students in remedial math. The players also served as role models and life coaches to these students. Many players put in hours above and beyond what was required by the mentoring program.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to formally congratulate the women of the Jaguars on their accomplishments, both on and off the softball field, in their historic first season. I would also like to insert the Jaguars roster into the of the team into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Jessica Salas, Erin Litvik, Samantha Campagna, Kristen Lindley, Curby Ryan, Lindsey Ferguson, Lauren Garza, Chelsi Fitzgerald, Kasey Voyles, Cayla Dluhos, Ashley Falco, Stephanie Lavey, Amber Scott, Whitney Damborsky, Brittany Faas.

RECOGNIZING DENISE JORGENSEN, FOUNDER OF OPERATION MINNESOTA NICE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Denise Jorgensen, founder of Operation Minnesota Nice, which provides comfort and support to the American soldier fighting for freedom abroad. It is vital that we not forget those defending our liberty, and Operation Minnesota Nice does its part by sending care packages to troops from Minnesota serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

Two months into its mission, Operation Minnesota Nice built its ranks up to ten volunteers

and assisted 17 soldiers spread throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, they have 1,100 volunteers.

Perhaps the greatest contribution Operation Minnesota Nice has made to American soldiers is the inspiration they provide for others to start similar organizations. Floyd Olesen is one such individual. He and his wife started a local chapter of Operation Minnesota Nice in Becker, Minnesota, followed by another organization, Support Our Troops, headquartered in Elk River, Minnesota. Mr. Olesen clearly speaks with admiration for the work Denise Jorgensen has done.

Madam Speaker, we're able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of the selfless sacrifices so many brave Americans made to secure them, and veterans in America today deserve our utmost respect. The acts of generosity of men and women like Denise and her army of citizen-volunteers are just a sampling of the generous acts of kindness taking place across America to honor the bravest among us. Thank you for your dedication and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE
SERGEANT JAY POUPARD

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize Detective Sergeant Jay Poupard on receiving the 2008 Attorney General Special Commendation Award. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate Detective Sergeant Poupard on behalf of all of those who have benefited from his dedicated service to Charlotte, Michigan and his proven ability to protect the lives of its citizens.

Detective Sergeant Poupard is a member of the Michigan Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The ICAC Task Force is a nationwide program designed to assist state and local law enforcement agencies increase their capability to investigate offenders who use the Internet or other computer technology to sexually exploit children. The program is made up of 59 regional Task Force agencies and is funded by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The fast, shrewd action of Detective Sergeant Poupard and Detective Spence of Florida and the effective information exchange between the ICAC Task Forces directly saved the life of an 8-year-old child. Detective Sergeant Poupard's skillful work and sharp sense of awareness also prevented further manufacture and distribution of child pornographic images. As a model to officers across the country, Detective Sergeant Poupard continues to carry out his duty to protect Michigan and the United States.

The 2008 Attorney General Special Commendation Award was presented to Detective Sergeant Jay Poupard of Charlotte, Michigan for his extraordinary work which saved the life of a young child. His superior performance is worthy of this honor and indicative of his continued commitment to high standards and thorough investigative work.

Madam Speaker, today I honor Detective Sergeant Jay Poupard for his esteemed serv-

ice to the Charlotte community. May others know of my high regard for his outstanding performance and dedication to protecting our children, as well as my best wishes for Detective Sergeant Poupard in the future.

THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF MAC-
EDONIA

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of the U.S. State Department announcement this month regarding the strategic partnership between the United States and the Republic of Macedonia.

I urge my colleagues to review this document closely, and to remember the geostrategic importance of the United States' continued support for the Republic of Macedonia's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

We in Congress should also fully appreciate the great distance this young country has traveled—reforming itself politically, economically, and militarily—since the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

DECLARATION OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 7, 2008

The United States of America and the Republic of Macedonia are determined to expand and deepen the close partnership between the two countries based upon common goals, interests, and values. The two countries wish to enhance their strategic relationship through intensified consultation and cooperation in the areas of security, people-to-people ties, and commerce. The United States and Macedonia reaffirm their support for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, the purposes and principles of the U.N. charter, and a unitary, multiethnic Macedonia within its existing borders.

Macedonia and the United States note that a democratic, secure and prosperous Macedonia, with friendly and constructive relations with its neighbors and as an active participant in regional and international economic, political and security fora, is vital to peace and stability in Southeast Europe.

In this regard, the United States continues to support Macedonia's security, stability and economic development.

In the interest of an intensified partnership, the United States intends to immediately provide additional assistance to Macedonia to help build prosperity, strengthen security, and foster deeper ties between our two countries.

Macedonia expresses deep appreciation to the U.S. for its assistance to date in helping the Macedonian people as they work to institutionalize and make permanent a democratic process that realizes our shared values of peace, freedom, the rule of law, and a free market economy. Macedonia also recognizes and reaffirms the support from the U.S. in reforming and strengthening its armed forces.

Building on our existing strong partnership in the fight against global terrorism and

promoting international stability, demonstrated by our troops serving together in Iraq and Afghanistan, our civilian and military officials plan to intensify their bilateral high-level contacts and seek increased joint training and exercise opportunities to enhance the interoperability of our forces, and strengthen our partnership in promoting international security and non-proliferation.

Sharing a desire to expand trade and investment, the United States and Macedonia will seek to enhance their economic ties and undertake additional measures to strengthen the competitiveness of Macedonia's economy and expand opportunities for United States and Macedonian businesses. The United States supports Macedonia's ongoing efforts to build a business-friendly environment attractive to United States and other foreign investment. Macedonia expresses its appreciation for the opportunity to utilize GSP to strengthen bilateral trade. Both countries encourage the further expansion of their trade relations.

Macedonia expresses satisfaction with the successful implementation of the USAID technical assistance programs in the areas of democracy, economic growth and education and reaffirms its desire for cooperation in these areas to continue.

The two countries also seek to build closer and more robust bonds between their citizens and will undertake practical measures to promote educational and cultural exchange.

The NATO Summit Declaration in Bucharest made clear that the Republic of Macedonia has met NATO's democratic, economic, and defense standards through its rigorous participation in the Membership Action Plan. The United States continues to work with our NATO Allies to maintain Macedonia's robust cooperation with NATO under existing mechanisms, while it awaits a membership invitation.

Both countries look forward to Macedonia joining NATO as soon as possible. Our intensified cooperation at this time will further strengthen Macedonia's readiness to take on Alliance obligations and responsibilities in the near future.

CONGRATULATING OUTSTANDING
HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS OF NEW
JERSEY'S 11TH DISTRICT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2008 Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional!

We have 46 students participating. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First Place was awarded to Jessica Pester of Millburn High School for her work "Waiting." Second Place was awarded to Rebecca Bailey from West Morris Mendham High School for her work "Mark." Third Place was awarded to Kristen Capote from Parsippany Christian School for her work "Digital Camera."